



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sign Vandalism Sparks Disappointment Among Chiefs

Edmonton, Alberta – November 21, 2014 – Vandalism of a road sign has left Chiefs of Treaty No. 8 [Alberta] very disappointed. Signs marking “Entering Treaty No. 8 Territory” have been going up all across the province marking out the actual borders of the Alberta portion of the territory covered by Treaty No. 8, signed between the Crown and First Nations in 1899. One of these signs, near Plamondon, Alberta on Highway 63 to Fort McMurray, has been cut down and destroyed by an unknown party.

“All we know for sure is that this was a case of vandalism, my office has spoken to the contractor for the area and there is no official work being done in the area,” states Chief Steve Courtoreille, Grand Chief with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

The sign, was placed on Friday, November 14, 2014 and was found by highway maintenance crews on Monday, November 17, 2014 cut in half and left on the ground.

“My staff had worked very hard to ensure that the rules were followed, all the necessary permits in place before it was put up,” states Grand Chief Courtoreille before continuing, “it took more hours of work to put up than it actually stayed up, and the Chiefs aren’t happy.”

“This sign was stating a historical fact, it marked out the actual borders of the Treaty No. 8 Territory and is becoming a symbol of pride for people in Treaty No. 8, to have someone cut it down is just disrespectful,” says Grand Chief Courtoreille, before finishing, “Our Elders have told us over and over that Treaty No. 8 was a Treaty of peace and friendship, to have a sign acknowledging our Traditional Treaty Territory destroyed is not a good way to bring people together.”

“This will not stop us, and I want all members of Treaty No. 8 and Albertans, to know, the sign will be back up again, and soon,” states the Grand Chief, “this is too important to let something like this deter us.”

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